

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 171442
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 171442

NODIS

FOR DR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOLLOWING REPEAT JIDDA 5107 ACTION STATE JULY 22.

QUOTE S E C R E T JIDDA 5107

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, US, SA

SUBJECT: BEGIN VISIT

REF: STATE 170055

1. SINCE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS UNAVAILABLE ON JULY 21 AND CROWN PRINCE WAS IN TAIF, DCM DELIVERED REPORT ON BEGIN VISIT CONTAINED STATE 170055 TO FON MIN UNDERSECRETARY THUNAYYAN. THUNAYYAN SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO SEE FON MIN LATER THAT EVENING, AND IN ANY CASE WOULD TRANSMIT THE REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND THE CROWN PRINCE.

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2. THUNAYYAN THEN EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER APPARENT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND BEGIN ON QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL AND ON PALESTINIAN ISSUES. HE COMMENTED THAT HE SAW NOTHING NEW IN THE ISRAELI POSITION AND INDICATED THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT WITHOUT MORE AGREEMENT ON BASIC SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES THE MEPC WOULD RESULT IN A WELL PUBLICIZED FAILURE WHICH WOULD BE WORSE THAN HAVING NO

CONFERENCE AT ALL.

3. DCM POINTED OUT THAT WE HAD INITIATED A PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANTIVE PRINCIPLES WITH BEGIN WHICH WERE BASED ON RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338 AND WE WERE GIVING MORE THOUGHT TO THE QUESTION OF A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES IN ORDER TO BE IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THEM DURING THE SECRETARY'S TRIP. DCM ADDED THAT THIS APPEARED TO BE A NEW ELEMENT IN THE SITUATION.

4. DCM ALSO EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT PRESIDENT BELIEVED THAT IT WOULD BE TACTICALLY UNWISE TO SEEK CONFRONTATION ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES DURING BEGIN VISIT. AT THIS STAGE IN THE PROCESS PRESIDENT WAS MORE CONCERNED WITH BUILDING SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION POLICIES AND CREATING PSYCHOLOGICAL MOMENTUM FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE PRESIDENT'S FAILURE TO SEEK CONFRONTATION, HOWEVER, SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS A CHANGE IN THE USG POSITION WHICH, IN FACT, REMAINED AS PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED.

5. THUNAYYAN EXPRESSED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THIS APPROACH AND SAID HE WOULD PASS THESE REMARKS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AND CROWN PRINCE.

6. THUNAYYAN THEN REFERRED TO THE EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL. HE EXPRESSED THE VIEW
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THAT WE HAD SOLD ISRAEL ENOUGH ARMS AND ASKED IF ADDITIONAL SALES WOULD NOT MAKE ISRAEL EVEN MORE INFLEXIBLE. DCM REPLIED THAT WE HAD AN ON-GOING MILITARY SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP WITH ISRAEL. IF WE WERE TO STOP THE RELATIONSHIP NOW IT WOULD PRECIPITATE THE KIND OF CONFRONTATION THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS HOPING AT THIS TIME TO AVOID.

7. DCM SAID THAT SEC. VANCE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO DISCUSSING ALL OF THESE PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES DURING HIS VISIT IN AUGUST. THUNAYYAN ASKED TO BE ADVISED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE DATES OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT SO THE PROPER ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE. WEST UNQUOTE VANCE

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